England's great Robber,

containing the

Merry Life and Mad Exploits

OF

Capt. James Hind

1. Hind's birth and education. 2. Robs a gentleman on foot and furnishes himself with a horse. 3. How he was betrayed by two whores, who sent two highwaymen to rob him. 4. Hind is enchanted by an old Hag for the term of three years. 5. Of his robbing a gentleman in Yorkshire. 6. Robs two gentlemen's servants, and draws in a parson to be taken up for the same. 7. Robs a gentleman of 20£, who offered 20 to take him. Trick on two Bailiffs. Robs a gentleman of an horse, &c. &c.

Who at the close of all was hanged, drawn, and quartered, for High Treason, at Worcester.

Bradford; Printed and Sold by R. Sedgwick, where Shopkeepers and Hawkers may be supplied.

RB.23 a.6914

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England's Great ROBBER;

OR

No Jeſt like a true Jeſt.

CHAP. I

Of Hind's Birth and Education.

CAPTAIN James Hind, the ſubject of this diſcourſe, was born in Chipping-Norton, in Oxfordſhire. His father having no other children, put him to ſchool, but he minded pleaſure more than his book, which his father perceiving, bound him apprentice to a butcher, but he ran away from his maſter, and came up to London, where he ſoon got acquainted with the moſt wicked company.——To be ſhort, as they ſeldom abounded with money, ſo they ſcorned to be long in want, for when their ſtock grew ſhort, they cut for more. At laſt the knot was diſcovered, the chief of them hanged, and Hind eſcaped with the loſs of his horſe, and now he ſets up for himſelf.

CHAP. II.

Hind robs a gentleman on foot, and furniſhes himſelf with a horſe.

HIND having loſt his horſe, was reſolved to get another, or follow his trade on foot, and to colour his knavery he dreſt himſelf like a ſhepherd, with a pike-ſtaff on his neck, and travelled to Bambury, and in his way he eſpied a gentleman leading his horſe down a hill. Hind then whiſtled an ordinary pſalm.——When the gantleman came where he ſtood, he aſked him the time of the day which he anſwered civilly, but as the gentleman was getting on horſe, he beat him to the ground. Hind preſently took his horſe, piſtols, and money, and gave him back ten ſhillings to bear his charges. But to this day the gentleman loves not the tune of a pſalm.

CHAP. III.

How he was betrayed by two Whores, who ſent two Highwaymen to rob him.

HIND having gotten a great ſtore of gold he paſſed away the day merrily,

and then towards night he rides to an inn which ſtood in a private road, where it ſeems ſome highwaymen did uſe. After he had ſeen his horſe carefully dreſt and fed, he came into the houſe where were two handſome ladies by the fire. He beſpoke a good ſupper, and invited them to it. When ſupper was ready he called for wine and made them merry: They ſeemed very coy to him, but he knowing their humours, pulled out of his pocket a handful of gold, ſinging.

Maids, what are your hearts become?
Look ye what here is!

After much mirth he went to bed, and preſently after came in thoſe men which kept theſe whores, to whom they related all the courteſy of Hind, and that he had abundance of gold about him. They reſolved to watch his going, and follow him. But Hind being wakeful, was got up and mounted before they were ſtirring. When they heard his horſe prance, they looked out of the window, and ſeeing he had ſo good a ſteed were ready to fall out who ſhould have him. I will have the horſe, ſays one, and you ſhall have the money.

Nay, I'll have the horſe, ſays the other. In the concluſion they quickly made themſelves ready and rode after him. When they had overtaken him, they asked him which was his road? he anſwered, Towards Cambridge. They told him they were glad of his company.

Now riding in a convenient place one of the thieves ſung:

Maids, what are your hearts become?
Look ye what here is.

Hind ſeeing their intent. and finding he was betrayed, anſwered them in the ſame tune:

Rogues, ye are both undone,
Look ye what here is.

And drawing forth his piſtol, ſhot one of their horſes, which preſently fell down with his maſter's leg under him. Then going to the other, he made him deliver ſuch money as he had about him, and cutting his garth and bridle, made him work enough to catch his horſe again. Hind now rides to the other who lays but in little eaſe; he alights, and pulls the horſe from his leg, then helps him up, and takes

away his money alſo, ſaying, is there but one maſter thief in all England, and would you attempt to rob him? Verily, were you not of my own profeſſion, neither of you ſhould have lived; but as you ventured hard for it, you deſerved ſomething ſo gave him his money to buy another horſe, ſaying, ſtrive not at ſmall ſums, but aim at great ones, for the leaſt will bring you to the Gallows, ſo Hind ſhaking the poor thief by the hand, left him and his partner to catch the horſe, and bid him farewel.

CHAP. IV.

Hind is enchanted by an old Hag, for the Term of Three Years.

AFTER Hind had robbed the gentleman of his horſe, it was his chance to ride to Hatfield, where lying at the George Inn, being then the poſt-houſe, he merrily ſpent all the evening with ſome gentlemen who were there. In the morning early, Hind called for his horſe, to be gone, and takes leave of thoſe gentlemen who were ſtirring. And as he rode through Hatfield, an old ill favoured wo-

man asked alms of him; ſo his horſe preſently ſtood ſtill, and would go no further. Sir, ſaid the old woman I have ſtayed all this morning to ſpeak with you, and would you have me loſe my labour? Speak your mind, ſaid Hind. Whereupon the woman began thus:——Captain Hind, you will ride through and go into many dangers. Thereupon by my poor ſkill, I have thought upon a method to preſerve you for three years; but then, the time being paſt you ore no more than another man, and a miſchance may befall you as well as another; but if you be in England come to me, and I will renew the virtue of the charm again. In ſaying theſe words ſhe pulled out of her boſom a little box, almoſt like a ſun dial, and gave it to Captain Hind, and ſaid to him, When you are in diſtreſs look upon this, and that way you ſee the ſtar turn, go and you ſhall eſcape. So ſhe ſwiſhed with a white wand that was in her hand, and ſtruck the horſe on the buttocks, and bid him farewell. The horſe immediately flew forward with ſuch courage that he had not time to thank her, but gueſſing it was her will it ſhould be, ſo rode on.

CHAP. V.

Of his robbing a Gentleman in Yorkſhire.

A Gentleman coming from York, intending for London, by accident he met with Hind, who ſoon made him deliver what he had, and gave him back twenty ſhillings to bear his charges, 'till that his credit ſhould better furniſh him. So the gentleman rode on his journey to the next town, where he was perfectly known by the innkeeper. Being alighted from his horſe, he immediately deſires the hoſt to get him ſomething for his chamber. In the mean time in comes Hind, and asks if there were any gentlemen going the next day to London. The hoſt anſwered, There is a gentleman that would be glad of company. So Hind went up and paid his obeyſance. The gentleman ſaid, Sir, ſit down, and I will ſhew you how I was robbed to-night. I durſt have ſworn you had been the man, but your hair is ſhorter. Said Hind, do

you know his horſe? Yes, ſaid the gentleman. To ſatisfy you, ſaid he, you ſhall ſee mine. So he goes and asked him, if that was the horſe? He anſwered, Yes, Then ſaid Hind I cannot ſtay with you to-night if you know my horſe better than myſelf. Therefore he bid him farewel once again.

CHAP. VI.

Hind robs two Gentlemen's Servants, and draws in a Parſon to be taken up for the ſame; and his Examination before a Juſtice.

HIND being informed of a purchaſe, eſpied two Gentlemen drinking, having ſent their ſervants before. Hind paſſed them and ſoon came up with their ſervants. Hind knowing there was money in their portmanteaus, bid them deliver; and finding delays would be dangerous, cut open the portmanteaus, and took the money, riding away with it, he met a parſon, and ſaid, Sir, I am like to be robbed, come ſtand by me, one honeſt man will ſcar ten thieves; you

ſhall have my piſtols. So he gave the parſon a piſtol ready cocked and charged, and bid him fire at them that came firſt, while I, ſaid he, ride to the next village, and raiſe the country to our aſſiſtance. The parſon having taken a cup too much at a wedding, was pot valiant, and rode up boldly to the gentlemen, and fired his piſtol but did no execution. Then he rode up and threw the piſtol at the other. But the gentlemen ſeized him, and the parſon cryed, ſpare my life and take my money. No, ſirrah, we will have you hanged, what a parſon turned highwayman! When he came before the Juſtice, they ſaid, we are robbed of 200l. and this parſon is one of the thieves. The Juſtice wondered that ſuch apparent teſtimony ſhould come againſt the parſon who was by this time come to himſelf, and deſired the Juſtice to let him ſpeak.

This being allowed, he ſaid, Sir, you have known me theſe twenty years, and no one can ſay I every wronged them. As I was riding home I met a man with two bags of money before him, who ſaid, he was purſued by thieves, and gave me

two piſtols to defend myſelf, while he raiſed the country. So when thoſe two gentlemen came down the hill, I rode up to them, and fired my piſtol at one of them; and when I had ſo done, I flung it at the gentleman's head, taking them for thieves: Sir, this is all I know of the matter.

The Juſtice laughed to ſee the parſon of the pariſh apprehended for a highwayman, but paſſed his word for his appearance at the next ſeſſions when he was cleared; but made a vow he would never fire a piſtol again.

CHAP. VII.

Hind robs a Gentleman of Thitty Pounds who offered Twenty to ſee him.

HIND overtook a gentleman on the road, who ſaid, he'd give twenty pounds to ſee Hind. And as they were riding the gentleman fancied Hind's horſe. Sir, ſaid he, what ſhall I give you to exchange horſes? Forty pounds, ſaid he, I will give you, ſaid the gentleman, thirty pounds: Hind ſaid, Sir, ride him. So he gave him the money; when coming to a

ditch, I can't leap ſaid the gentleman. So he diſmounted, and Hind got up. And being on the other ſide of the ditch, he ſaid, Sir, you would give twenty pounds to ſee Hind, and now you have ſeen him, the other ten are for riding his horſe, and ſo farewel.

CHAP. VIII.

Of his robbing a Parſon.

A PARSON riding from Coventry to London, was robbed of his ſilver, but reſerved forty pounds in gold; when Hind coming up, asked him which way he travelled? The parſon ſaid, To London. But I have been robbed, and the villains left me but five ſhillings. Sir, ſaid Hind, I was robbed too, but was cunning enough to hold my gold in my boots. Nay, ſays the parſon, I believe my gold is as ſafe, for I have put it in the collar of my great coat. Hind was glad when he knew where it was, but being near the inn, they ſupped, and went to bed. In the morning the

parſon called up Hind. So coming to a convenient place, he asked the parſon if he could gueſs his trade? No, ſaid the parſon. Then, ſaid he, I am a cutter, and muſt cut the collar of your coat, before I can take your money. Having ſo done, he left the parſon forty pounds lighter than he found him.

CHAP. IX.

Hind's trick on two Bailiffs and an old Uſurer.

HIND riding through a town in Warwickſhire, he ſaw a tumult in the ſtreet, and enquires the reaſon. One told him an honeſt inn keeper was arreſted for twenty pounds, and that the man was undone. Hind goes to the man, asking what ſecurity he would give? Who told him, all he had. So Hind had the old Uſurer and two Bailiffs into the houſe, paid the money and cancelled the bond. Hind enquiring which way the Uſurer went, followed and ſoon overtook him, Friend,

ſaid he I juſt now lent you twenty pounds, which I'll have again.——The Uſurer ſaid, You paid me ſo much on a bond. Sir, ſaid he, it is not time to diſpute. So he took from the Uſurer that, and thirty pounds more, which he had got by uſury, and returned the hoſt the writings and five pounds. The Uſurer came back thinking to extort ſome more money, but the hoſt handſomely beat him, which was all he got.

CHAP. X.

Hind robs a Gentleman in Buckinghamſhire.

AFTER a day or two Hind rode into Bunkinghamſhire, where he was acquainted with many gentlemen. On a time he rode to Chalk-Hill, where a gentleman and his ſervant lighted to walk down the hill. The Captain bids his man ſtay with his horſe at the foot of the hill, while he untruſt himſelf.

Hind watching the opportunity, rode ſoftly till he came near the Captain, and

then bid him deliver. The Captain was amazed at this ſudden onſet of Hind, who all the while held the piſtol to his breaſt, ſaying, diſpatch, for I make no delay. The Captain deſired he would forbear 'till he was truſſed up. Hind gave him ſo much leave, ſaying, be quick, Sir. The Captain ſeeing it could not be avoided, gave him thirty pieces of gold. Hind ſaid, Sir I take this in part, and ſo rode down the hill, where the ſervant ſtaid with his horſe. Hind ſaid, Sirrah, is that your maſter on the hill? He anſwered him, Yes, Sir. Then ſaid Hind I ſeldom take any thing from the maſter, but I give the ſervant ſomething, ſo giving him ten ſhillings, ſaid, here's ſomething to drink my health, and tell your maſter my name's Hind.

CHAP. XI.

How Hind robbed a Gentleman of an Hundred and Fifty Pounds.

HIND travelling up and down the country, met with a luſty young fellow, whom he had formerly known. He told him, if he would live with him, he ſhould have money at command.

Jack gueſſing the trade ſoon gave conſent. He preſently bought a good horſe for his man, and furniſhed him with a ſword, piſtol, and cloaths. Being fixed, they went towards Nottingham, and came to an inn, where a gentleman and his ſervant were juſt come before, where the oſtler was then taking of a gentleman's portmanteau. The oſtler ſaid, it is but a little portmanteau; but it is very heavy. Hind well eſpying it, ſaid to his man Jack, enquire which way the gentleman goes tomorrow. So Hind went in, and they ſupped together; and Jack and the gentleman's footman drunk plentifully of ſack. Hav-

ing got acquianted, Jack aſked him, which way his maſter rode the next morning? He told him, towards London. My maſter, ſaid Jack rides that way too, I think. Now he having as much as he deſired, went to enquire what his maſter wanted. Then he bid him get his ſlippers and pull of his boots. When he came to his room, he aſked of his man which way he went? So he told him. Soon after breakfaſt the gentleman purſued on his journey, and riding by a wood ſide, Hind rode up to him ſaying, have I nothing to do but wait on you. Jack takes off the portmantua, ſaying, Maſter it is very heavy. Said Hind to the gentleman, You are ill-bel ved that you can't get gold for ſilver. Jack rides up to the gentleman's ſervant and ſtrikes him over the head, ſaying, muſt my horſe be ſpoiled to carry your portmanteau? So Hind left the gentleman and his ſervant gazing upon one another. Hind and his man ſpared no horſe fleſh till they came at a convenient place, and they looked into the pormanteau, where they found an hundred and fifty pounds. This they counted a very good morning's work.

CHAP. XII.

Hind's Trick on a Committee-Man, who had diſguiſed himſelf.

A Committee man having an occaſion to travel to London, to buy ſome goods, hearing there was robbing on the road, fitted himſelf with an old great coat worn out at the elbows, an old mare with rolls inſtead of ſtirrups, a ſaddle not worth three-pence, and a bridle of the ſame value. Now rides he ſafe, imamiging, but money ill-got will be ill ſpent, for he met with Hind, who aſked him what he was? He replied, An old man going to ſeek relief. Hind gave him a piece of gold, and bid him dring his health. The old fellow thinking to pleaſe Hind, ſwore he would get drunk. So they parted, and the old man reaching his inn, called for a glaſs of wine, ſaying, he had eſcaped the greateſt danger; for he met with Hind, who inſtead of robbing him, gave him ſomething to drink his health, but I will ſee him hanged firſt. Hind came in-

to the inn, uſing to lie there as a traveller. The hoſt told him in what ſad fear an old Committee man was that day, ſaying he had met with Hind, who gave him money to drink his health, but he'd ſee him hanged firſt, and called him a thouſand rogues. So Hind went to bed, and let the miſer travel firſt in the morning, and in about an hour he overtook him, and aſked him if he had drank his health? To which he ſaid he never was ſo drunk in his life: For, ſaid he, I did drink the King's Queen's and Prince's, health, and your's ten times. Hind ſaid I have found you out in many lies, and I will now make you call me a rogue for ſomething; ſo made him untie his greaſy knapſack, where he found fifty pounds in gold, and his own piece. Now the committee man reſolved to borrow as much money of the ſtate before he went home.

CHAP. XIII.

How Hind paſſed a Trick upon a famous Dutch Mountebank.

HIND having committed ſo many robberies, was oblged to go into Holland. Now being in a ſtrange country, he grew ſhort of money. So hearing of a mountebank, who was fortunate in cures, who having been to viſit his patients, and received vaſt quantities of money, was watched by Hind, who ſaluted him in this wiſe, Sir, I have heard much of your renown, in cures of dangerous conſequences, and ſeeing it is my happineſs to meet with you, I beg you will viſit my wife, who is troubled with a flux in her belly for theſe three or four years paſt, and you by your experience may do her good, if you pleaſe to go and ſee her. I do humbly requeſt you to go along with me.

The bell ſounds well, he goes with him, and by the way gives him comfortable anſwers, ſaying, God forbid I ſhould neglect to exert my ſkill. Upon theſe com-

pliments, Hind led him from ſtreet to ſtreet, until at laſt he got him to his lodgings, which was ſo contrived as to be at ſome diſtance from the others. Having locked the door, he takes up his piſtol in one hand, and an empty purſe in the other, and looking upon the moutebank, ſaid, Sir, here is my wife, (meaning his empty purſe) ſhe hath been a long time troubled with with the flux in her belly, and you are the only man can cure the diſeaſe, or elſe by this piſtol I am reſolved to remedy it. The mountebank ſeeing himſelf thus cunningly ſurpriſed, cried out, but was ſoon ſilenced by the piſtol, and was fain to cure Hind's purſe of the flux. So he went off with his piſtol cocked, for fear of an outcry, and left him to find the way out of the chamber himſelf.

CHAP. XIV.

Hind goes to Scotland; and is afterwards apprehended in London.

HIND being weary of a ſtrange place, ſhipped for Scotland. When he was landed he went to England, and preſented himſelf to the King, who recommended him to the Duke of Buckingham, from whom he got away; but was ſoon after taken again and carried before the council of ſtate, where he was examined concerning his attatchment to Charles Stewart, and furthering his eſcape: whereunto he anſwered, He never ſaw the king ſince Worceſter fight, but was glad to hear of his eſcape. On which he was committed to the Gate-houſe, and the next day ſtrongly guarded and ironed, he was ſent to Newgate, where he lay till the enſuing ſeſſions, and the next chapter determines his fate.

CHAP. XV.

The Conclusion, and Hind's farewell at Worcester.

ON the 15th of December, 1651, Captain Hind was brought to the Bar at the Old Bailey, where divers questions were asked him about his life and conversation. He protested his innocency of any crime since 1642, within the parliamentary dominions. So he was acquitted for that time. By the March following he was tried at Reading and found guilty of manslaughter, and condemned to die, but an act of oblivion being sent, he was acquitted of all his former offences, only the indictment of High Treason against the State; for which he was carried to Worcester, and there hanged, drawn, and quartered, on Friday September 24, 1653.

Thus fate the great derider did deride,
Who liv'd by Robbery, yet for Treason dy'd.

FINIS.

CHAP. XV.

The Concluſion, and Hind's farewell at Worceſter.

ON the 15th of December, 1651, Captain Hind was brought to the Bar at the Old Bailey, where divers queſtions were asked him about his life and converſation. He proteſted his innocency of any crime ſince 1642 within the parliamentary dominions. So he was acquitted for that time. In the March following he was tried at Reading and found guilty of manſlaughter, and condemned to die, but an act of oblivion being ſent, he was acquitted of all his former offences, only the indictment of High Treaſon againſt the State; for which he was carried to Worceſter, and there hanged, drawn, and quartered, on Friday September 24, 1652.

Thus fate the great derider did deride,
Who liv'd by Robbery, yet for Treaſon dy'd.

FINIS.